



Notes

Of a Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Of the City of Kenora Thursday, January 12, 2023 – City Hall 4:00p.m.

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**With:** Carolyn Hudson      Mary Bawden

**Staff:** Danica Farion – Executive Assistant      Kelly Galbraith – Deputy Clerk

**Regrets:** Chad English      C. Kelsie Van Belleghem

**Absent:** Maureen Wasacase

#### 1. Call to Order

Danica called the meeting to order at 4:12pm.

#### 2. Roundtable Introductions

Kelly Galbraith introduced herself as the former Staff Resource with this Committee, for the past 7 years, she is the Customer Services Manager and Deputy Clerk with the City of Kenora.

Danica Farion introduced herself as the new Staff Resource with this Committee, she is the Executive Assistant to the CAO, and previously worked at the City as Operations Administrative Support.

Carolyn Hudson introduced herself, she is a former teacher in Kenora. She had a husband who had muscular dystrophy and saw him have to adapt to being in wheelchair. She understands a lot of the accessibility barriers from these personal experiences. She provided some insight into other personal relationships that provide experience for this Committee. She shared her volunteer contributions throughout the community.

Mary Bawden introduced herself, she is a retired nurse who worked in rehab and rheumatology. Mostly her focus was in geriatrics, last 10 years of her career she taught at Western University and retired in Kenora in 2012. Since then she has gotten involved in the Seniors Coalition. She shared her volunteer experience within the community both that relates to accessibility and otherwise.

### **3. Committee Orientation**

Deferred due to quorum.

### **4. Election of Chair and Co-Chair**

Deferred due to quorum.

Kelly explained the history of the Chair and Co-Chair, in the past a rotating chair has been explored but it was not overly successful.

### **5. Confirmation of Future Meeting Dates for 2023**

Deferred due to quorum, Danica will circulate an email to get a feel for everyone's schedules and availability.

Brief discussions on looking at moving to bi-monthly meetings to ensure meetings are fulsome and valuable, with the option to call additional meetings should the need arise.

### **6. Confirmation of Minutes**

Deferred due to quorum.

### **7. Terms of Reference – Review and Edits**

Brief discussions on edits the previous Committee had suggested. Committee Membership needs adjustment and the AODA requirements need to be considered. Removal of limiting numbers of types of committee members would be beneficial, adding a sentence to 4.2 regarding the size of our community that indicates where this is not possible the members may include those with experience would also be beneficial to recruitment of members.

### **8. Roundtable**

Discussions on ideas for accessibility week, Carolyn suggested wheelchair awareness week. Mary noted she would like to see additional participation from committee members on this week moving forward as there has not been sufficient contributions in the past. Ideas shared regarding having accessible comparisons showcased, such as door knobs vs door handles, stair treads at accessible measurements vs not, perhaps one of the high schools would be willing to build examples for this.

Kelly shared there are two additional applicants for the Committee who are recommended to be appointed to the Committee at the next Council Meeting on January 18, 2023.

Kelly shared how Accessibility Weeks have gone previously and where she has seen contributions from committee members and is hopeful to see this continued with this new Committee. She continued with highlights of what events have showcased the City's Accessibility features.

Kelly reminded the table that this Committee is an Advisory Committee to the City, and expressed that any advocacy or communication needs to be on behalf of the Committee. She utilized the local Eye Doctor Clinic as an example, this is not a City of Kenora facility, it met code at the time of construction and has been grandfathered in, should that building undergo 'brand new build' this could possibly be addressed but not guaranteed. Danica will circulate the "Beyond Minimum" Letter to the Committee with the next meeting package so they have an idea of these types of correspondence.

**9. Next Meeting** – To Be Determined (TBD)

**10. Adjourn Meeting** – The meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.